

Child Protection Accountability Commission  
April 10, 2002  
9:30 a.m.

**Those in attendance:** Lynne Howard, CPAC chair, Judge Peggy Ableman/Superior Court, Gwendoline Angalet/CMH, Jane Brady/Attorney General, Dr. Allan DeJong/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children, Mary Lou Edgar/Interagency Council on Adoption, Carlyse Giddins/DFS, Janice Mink/Grassroots Citizens for Children, Commissioner Pat Stewart/Family Court, Roger Blevins/CPRB, Mary Ball Morton/OCM, Linda Wolfe/DOE, Tania Culley/OCA, Candace Charkow/DFS, James Maxwell/DOJ, Barbara Corrozi/Family Court, Anne Pedrick/OCA, Pete Feliceangli/DOJ.

- I. Appointment Letters for new commission members were never done, the Governor's office is working on it and it will need to be notarized.
- II. **Minutes** from January 9, 2002 unanimously approved.
- III. Discussion of Upcoming **Rally** April 24, 2002 by Janice Mink.
- IV. **Overview of Child Mental Health by Gwen Angalet:** CMH serves children under 18 that require Mental health services that are Medicaid eligible or do not have insurance. Mild vs. severe behavioral issues and coverage was discussed. How do kids get to CMH? Three modes of entry: CMH makes referrals, CMH tries to provide intensive case managements system, philosophically they try to treat kids in family/community or foster care not residential-unless clinicians say necessary. 43 providers in 71 locations. Served over 2000 children. CMH wishes they had more staff to provide psychological assessments. The Department has 81 children that are active with all three divisions, and they are the most challenged. Mary Ball Morton mentioned that they have multi-disciplinary teams (MDT's) that meet monthly to discuss cases such as these. Carlyse Giddins stated that one of the initiatives will be department foster care and DFS would be the point of entry. There would be on lead worker established. OCM is given authority to determine case management when a conflict arises among divisions. The Children's Dept. tries to intervene before progression goes from DFS to CMH to YRS. 84% of those active are in the community. The FACT program (federal grant program) gets referrals from school districts but they are now going to be changing that to referrals from the ICT team as well. The Children's Department has also started to make referrals to this project, often the kids are active with all three divisions. The case managers have 1-15 cases. CMH has also begun to provide training to DFS/YRS staff. A map of providers within the state were shown. A suggestion was made to show the outposts on this map as well. Some providers self-identify as abuse/neglect providers and there is no oversight for that at this time. Tania Culley asked if CMH recognized attachment disorder. CMH treats these cases as behavioral

Health. Mary Lou Edgar contributed that attachment issues are on a continuum and very few are full blown reactive attachment disorder. This often leads to socio-pathic behavior if not treated properly and clinicians are concerned about labeling children. It was suggested that foster parents are trained on these issues and how to access the CMH services. There are concerns that the MR population is falling through the cracks. It is felt that they do not have a full service continuum. Overall CMH crisis calls are up—saw a significant increase the three weeks following September 11, 2001. Their patient increase is the highest rate in years-part of the plan from DFS. CMH is affected by the hiring freeze. There have been some positions requested to be filled that were advanced to the governor. They have an African-American Advanced Psychologist from Yale who would like to come work for CMH and this would be a tremendous asset if able to be hired. CMH caseloads will go up if they have more vacancies. The CMH Advisory Council was reinvented. Gwen Angalet appoints/invites the participants.

- V. **Review of Current DFS statistics-Carlyse Giddins.** At their University Plaza location they had what they call “march madness blitz” where there was a lot of turnover. At that location is three investigation units and only 7 of the 21 were on rotation to take cases. Staff at Central Office were helping out. They lost a total of 16 positions. Out of 173 positions 16 to leave DFS. Some of the turnover is promotions and transfers. They added 3 positions in foster care. How this relates to the hiring freeze does concern Carlyse in regards to the direct front line. Out of the 10 open positions, 4 of those have been submitted to the governor. They did not fill the Foster Care Program Manager at Faulkland Road. Given the length of time to train staff, any delay in hiring process puts DFS behind. They continue to interview and conduct reference checks. Out of the 10 open positions, seven are investigations and three treatment. This is 8 full-time and 2 over-hire positions. They are holding supervisor’s accountable for turnover in their performance plan. DFS is aware that high caseloads increase job dissatisfaction which leads to turnover and it is a “snowball panic”. A question was raised about writing letters of concern from CPAC to the Governor. The staff have recognized the support from administration. DFS will put their focus on investigation. Last Friday, the Children’s Bureau was in Delaware and DFS is being considered for a IV-E project waiver. They are very impressed with the collaboration in Delaware. This project would involve a collaboration between Head Start and the Child Welfare Community. Carol Post from the DCADV has been added to the DFS Advisory Council.

- VI. **Legislation Update-** Next meeting of CPAC will be specifically focusing on pending legislation.
- HB 198- Rep. Pam Maier does not think this will go anywhere. Janice passed out an information sheet on a summary of HB 198. It was suggested that the Child Welfare community try not go get caught up in the emotion of the other side. Attorney General Brady stated that there is a lack of understanding

between the criminal intervention versus the DFS administrative intervention. If the registry issue is taken care of then this issue will subside. She stated that a parent does not distinguish between criminal vs. civil. CAPTA requires that a registry be kept. The Child Protection Registry workgroup subcommittee will be finished their work and legislation by 5/30/02. There is a fairly significant change in process. Pete stated that this subcommittee has been in executive session but should be able to discuss at the next CPAC meeting 5/22/02. It was discussed that records can be made public if an individual agrees and signs a waiver. Delaware Academy of Pediatrics has indicated that they will be sending a letter opposing HB 198.

- The Child Death Review Panel Subcommittee update from Attorney General Jane Brady indicated that the members are still working on procedural issues to improve the Child Death review panels. The National Center on Child Fatality Review has been contacted. The issues of “how and when the report is released” is still being discussed.
- Roger Blevins and Commissioner Stewart agreed to co-chair the legislative subcommittee of CPAC.
- Sex Offender Notification Task force-legislation has been drafted and given to legislature. It will be introduced when the legislature is back from break. This gives the responsibility back to the police and also includes a public awareness campaign.

VII. **Foster Care Subcommittee**-Next Meeting April 30<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

VIII. **Training Subcommittee**-This subcommittee will be collaborating with the Training consortium with Karen Derasmo once the position is filled with Prevent Child Abuse Delaware.

IX. **OCA Update**-As of March 30, 2002 OCA has represented 244 children and have 112 pro bono attorneys. OCA trained 30 attorneys last Friday. Angela currently has 28 cases and M.C. has approximately 26. Tania has 3 cases left and is looking to not take any more at this time. OCA’s annual report should be out next week. Janice commented that she was totally overwhelmed at the information that OCA brings to Family Court while she has been observing court hearings.

X. Attorney General Brady mentioned that she met with Catholic Bishop Salterelli the Department of Justice was provided with names. Only 5 perpetrators are still alive and all have been removed from the church. These five are not the ones that they have received calls about. Since 1985, the church has had a policy to call the Department of Justice. She clarified the role of the CAC-and told the Catholic Diocese not to their own investigation. The Diocese was told that the parent’s do not have a choice to keep it quiet.

XI. Janice Mink and Cathy Hamill were recognized at Kids Count for the Giraffe Award for sticking their necks out for kids.

- XII. **CAC update**-Dr. DeJong spoke that they are short on money from all of the budget cuts. He is unsure how this will affect services. They are trying to rely on donations. Attorney General Brady suggested that she may be able to assist in finding a way to solve the problem.

Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.